

ParentInfo

News for a child's
most important educator

June 1, 2016



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reading this
summer



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All photos by KDE unless otherwise noted

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Twitter chat

Parents: Want to chat with educators? A parent/teacher Twitter chat takes place at 9 p.m. every Wednesday. To participate or just follow the conversation, use the hashtag #PTchat.

Keep your children reading this summer



The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) is collaborating with the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA) to encourage students to participate in the state's 2016 Summer Reading Programs.

This year's themes center around fitness: "On Your Mark, Get Set . . . Read!" for children, and "Get in the Game: Read!" for teens.

Parents are encouraged to help children use "Find a Book, KY" (<http://www.lexile.com/fab/ky>)

to build personal reading lists for summer reading and then locate the selections at their school library or local public library.

"Find a Book, KY" uses the widely-adopted Lexile measure to match a reader with books that will provide the right level of challenge to support reading growth. School and public librarians are ready to assist children and their parents as they make summer reading selections.

Students, teachers and parents can "pledge to read" while on the "Find a Book, KY" website. The pledge feature continues through Aug. 31.

Kentucky was number one nationally in summer reading pledges for 2012, 2014 and 2015.

Find more information about summer reading on KDE's "Summer

Reading" Web page: <http://education.ky.gov/curriculum/conpro/Libmed/Pages/Summer-Reading.aspx>.

For more information about specific activities, contests and reading events for the Summer Reading Program in your county, contact your local public library or visit the KDLA Summer Reading Web page: <http://kdla.ky.gov/librarians/programs/summerreading/Pages/SummerReadingProgram-2016.aspx>.



Summer math challenge



What to help your child keep up his or her math skills this summer? Kentucky's Summer Math Challenge is a free math skills maintenance program based on grade-level academic standards that help prepare students for college and careers. The target audience is students who have just completed grades 1-7.

The program runs June 20-July 29. Parents will receive daily emails with fun activities and links to educational resources. For more information, [click here](#).

Governor Bevin announces new Kentucky Board of Education appointees

Gov. Matt Bevin has announced five new members to the Kentucky Board of Education. The board is comprised of 12 members, each serving four-year terms.

“I am very impressed with the talent, experience and knowledge of the newest members of the Kentucky Board of Education. Our prime responsibility as adults is to prepare the next generation for their most fulfilled life, and that responsibility starts with providing a high-caliber education to every student. It is tremendously important that Kentucky has the best leadership available for the board so that we can move with a new resolve in meeting the needs of all our children,” said Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet Secretary Hal Heiner.

“I welcome the new Kentucky Board of Education members. Each of them brings unique experiences and expertise that will help us build on our successes, spotlight our challenges and make improvements for the future. Our collective goal is to ensure that all of our students are provided with a quality, well-rounded education that prepares them for the next step in their lives and ultimately to be successful, productive citizens of the Commonwealth, the nation and the world. Guided by the pillars of our work – equity, achievement and integrity – I look forward to working with the board to do what is best for all our children and our Commonwealth,” said Kentucky Education Commissioner Stephen Pruitt.

The governor appoints 11 voting members, seven representing the Supreme Court districts and four representing the state at large. The additional member, the president of the Council on Postsecondary Education, serves as a nonvoting member. The appointees include:

Ben Cundiff	Cadiz, who has been appointed for the remainder of a term expiring in April 2018. Cundiff is a chemical engineer and an attorney.
Gary W. Houchens	Bowling Green, who has been appointed for a term expiring April 2020. Houchens is an associate professor in the Department of Educational Administration, Leadership and Research at Western Kentucky University.
Alesa G. Johnson	Somerset, who has been appointed for a term expiring April 2020. Johnson serves as associate dean for Workforce Solutions at Somerset Community College.
Rich Gimmel	Louisville, who has been appointed for a term expiring in April 2020. Gimmel is chairman of Atlas Machine and Supply Inc., in Louisville.
Milton C. Seymore	Louisville, who has been appointed for a term expiring in April 2020. Seymore is retired from Ford Motor Co. and currently serves as pastor of Energized Baptist Church in Louisville.

The board develops and adopts the regulations that govern Kentucky’s 173 public school districts and the actions of the Kentucky Department of Education.

Get your child moving this summer

If you’re looking for ways to keep your child active this summer, try [GoNoodle](#) at home.

GoNoodle is a free website with activities to keep your child moving.

- You can use GoNoodle at home to:
- Turn screen time into active time.
- Burn off extra energy on bad weather days.

- Keep your kids busy while you prepare dinner.
- Calm down before bedtime.
- Throw a family dance party in your living room!



National and state PTA to hold annual conventions



PTA members from across the country will meet in Orlando, Fla., from June 30 to July 3 to share their passion for ensuring the academic, physical and social well-being of children.

Registration for the [National PTA Convention and Expo](#) is open to PTA members, non PTA members and education stakeholders.

The conference will feature a line-up of educational programs and activities to help all PTA members. Some of the topics include:

- Learning to work better with principals, teachers and other community and family engagement leaders.
- Increasing student achievement.
- Expanding membership and deepening the engagement of underrepresented parents.
- Promoting health and safety initiatives for schools and families.
- Advocating more effectively by learning about the legislative issues facing our children and schools.

The convention is an opportunity to meet other PTA members and leaders to share ideas, make new friends and renew acquaintances

Registrations must be submitted online by midnight (ET) June 28 or postmarked by June 17 to receive the advance registration discount.

The Kentucky PTA [convention](#) will be July 15-16 at Chancey Elementary, 4301 Murphy Lane, Louisville. The early registration deadline is June 15.

Super Science Olympics coming to your library

Want to exercise your mind this summer and even touch a real human brain?

Reading is a great way to strengthen your brain and so is experimenting with hands-on science. The Living Arts & Science Center in Lexington has introduced a new program just in time for summer, the Super Science Olympics.

The Science Olympics program will feature a variety of hands-on stations for kids to experiment with. Stations will highlight health and fitness; physics and biology; and human and animal anatomy, including real human brain they can touch and animal skeletons.

For more information or to book your program, call Katherine Bullock at (859) 252-5222 or email kbullock@lasclex.org.



Kentucky Science Center to host Discovery Festivals

The Kentucky Science Center will host two Discovery Festivals for children of all ages and their families June 4 at Kentucky Wesleyan College in Owensboro and June 18 at Natural Bridge State Resort Park in Slade.

Participants can discover resources and careers in STEAM fields during a day of hands-on activities, science demonstrations, nature walks and special presentations at the free

events. Each site will have engaging opportunities for children of all ages to play and learn, and families can gain access to programs that can help them enjoy science all year long.

Educators and scientists also are invited to share activities at the festival. Email [Mira Gentry](#) for more information.

Both events will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. local time. Click [here](#) for more information.



Parts of state's college planning guide now available in audio

Parts of two chapters of "Getting In," the state's college planning guide, are now available in audio on the website of the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA).

The audio versions include Chapter One and the first part of Chapter Two. Chapter One is a guide to college admissions, while the first part of Chapter Two helps students and parents navigate the financial aid process.

People who access the audio version can listen to the complete chapter-long recordings or to separate sections that deal with specific topics, such as planning for college or finding financial aid.

KHEAA is the state agency that administers the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES), need-based grants and other programs to help students pay their higher education expenses.

For more information about Kentucky scholarships and grants, visit www.kheaa.com; write KHEAA, P.O. Box 798, Frankfort, KY 40602; or call (800) 928-8926, ext. 6-7214.



KSB and KSD hold graduation ceremonies



The 12 Kentucky School for the Deaf seniors celebrate after their graduation ceremony.

The Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) awarded diplomas to seven high school seniors in a ceremony held May 25 at the Louisville school. And on May 27 the Kentucky School for the Deaf awarded diplomas to 12 seniors in a ceremony at the school in Danville.

Of the seven KSB graduates, four will be attending a two- or four-year college and three will be entering the workforce.

"I am so proud of these graduates and their accomplishments at the Kentucky School for the Blind," said Commissioner of Education Stephen Pruitt, who attended the ceremony. "Whether they are continuing their education or starting a job after graduation, I am confident that the education they received at KSB will serve them well for the rest of their lives."

During the ceremony at KSD, valedictorian Bethany Yance, and salutatorian Quanchen Warmack addressed their classmates. Both Yance and Warmack plan to attend Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. In all, eight of the 12 graduates plan to continue their education at two- or four-year colleges, three plan to immediately enter the workforce and one graduate remained undecided.

"These students have worked hard to earn the diplomas they received here today," said Pruitt, who also attended the KSD ceremony. "I am proud of their accomplishments and I believe that the education they received at the Kentucky School for the Deaf will serve as a solid foundation for their continued success in college, career and in life."

In addition to Pruitt, several Kentucky Board of Education members and Kentucky

Department of Education staff members attended the ceremonies.



The graduating seniors at the Kentucky School for the Blind listen to commencement speaker Kathy Nimmer, Indiana's 2015 Teacher of the Year.